(d) the number of accused charge-sheeted under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 since November, 2004, convicted and acquitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Naxal violence in Chhattisgarh

948. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of extreme violence by naxal in Chhattisgarh resulting in the killing of hundred of civilians/police personnel, which has forced the State Government to suspend Salva Judum, launched as a people awareness campaign to oppose naxalites;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of civilians have left their homes and taken shelter in other parts of the State; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) During the current year till June end, 360 incidents of naxal violence and 244 casualties (190 civilians and 54 security forces) have been reported in Chhattisgarh as against 198 such incidents and 50 casualties in the same period last year. The sharp increase in naxal violence in Chhattisgarh is mainly due to effective police action by the State Government to dislodge naxalites from their stronghold area of Dantewada district and the continuing Salwa Judum.

(b) and (c) As per available reports, over 50,000 Salwa Judum activists are living in the relief camps. In view of naxalite attacks against Salwa Judum activists, the State Government has been advised to take immediate steps to provide maximum security to the relief camps and create an atmoshphere conducive for return of these local people to their native habitats.

Drugs smuggling into the country

949. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of drugs are smuggled into India regularly;

(b) if so, the total quantity of prohibited drugs smuggled in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the number of accused arrested and punished in this regard; and

(d) whether Government propose severe punishment to the smugglers/ defaulters; if so, when and the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The smuggling by its very nature being a highly clandestine activity, it is not possible to make an actual estimation of the quantity of the contrabands smuggled. However, the quantity of various drugs seized by drug law enforcement agencies during the last 3 years is as under:—

	2003	2004	2005
Heroin	991	1162	981
Opium	1720	2237	2009
Hashish	3013	4599	3965
Ganja	79653	144055	153660

(c) The number of persons arrested and convicted in drug related cases during the last three years are as under:—

	Persons arrested	Persons convicted
2003	19276	3006
2004	12106	4294
2005	19746	9074

(d) No, Sir. The Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, already provides for severe and stringent punishments to all drug offenders regardless of the quantity of the drugs involved. This punishment structure has been rationalized through an amendment to the Act in 2001 and a graded punishment structure depending on the quantity of drugs has been introduced. Even under the present rationalized punishment structure, persons convicted of offences involving commercial quantities of drugs are punishable with a rigorous imprisonment term of 10 to 20 years. Repeat offences are punishable with one and half times the punishment prescribed for the first offence. Certain categories of repeat drug offences attract even death penalty.